

**REMARKS**

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 22 and 24 remain pending.

Claims 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth on pages 2-3 of the Office Action.

Specifically, claims 21 and 23 are each rejected as being vague with respect to the “acquiring, from the plurality of storage devices, characteristic values defined for each volume of the plurality of storage devices, and storing the acquired characteristic values with a correspondence to said each volume defined thereby.”

The Examiner suggests that the claims omit that the characteristic values are “stored in memory” with reference to web contents, referring to page 6, lines 14-21 of the disclosure.

Claims 22 and 24 have been rewritten in independent form to include, respectively, the subject matter of independent claims 21 and 23. Further, the language of claims 21 and 23 added to claims 22 and 24 has been amended to recite that the acquired characteristic values are stored in memory. The claims have not been amended to refer to the “web contents” disclosed in the present specification on page 6, however, inasmuch as reference to web contents in the claims might be construed inadvertently to limit the claims unduly.

Claims 21 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gelb et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,018,060 in view of Warr, U.S. Patent No. 5,131,087 (Warr). On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 22 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all limitations of the base claims. Accordingly, claims 22 and 24 have been rewritten as required, and are thus in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger & Malur, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. 520.43063X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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